



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Service List

FROM: Benjamin Spruill, Hearing Officer

DATE: July 3, 2008

RE: Technical Conference Regarding Avoided Energy Supply Costs in New England: 2007 Final Report

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

On June 9, 2008, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth ("Attorney General") requested that the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") hold a technical conference to discuss the Avoided Energy Supply Costs in New England: 2007 Final Report ("2007 Report").<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Attorney General requested that one or more of the authors of the 2007 Report be made available to "present and discuss the calculations, methodologies and assumptions used in the avoided cost determinations and answer questions with regard to the study" (Attorney General Request at 1).

On June 10, 2008, the Division of Energy Resources ("DOER") filed comments encouraging the Department to hold the technical conference as a means to further inform interested parties about the study methods and the conclusions contained in the 2007 Report ("DOER Comments at 1"). On June 13, 2008, National Grid notified the Department that it was willing to participate in a technical conference regarding the 2007 Report (National Grid Comments at 1). However, National Grid emphasized that the technical conference should not

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<sup>1</sup> The Attorney General's initial request was not part of a Department docket. Subsequently, on June 18, 2008, the Attorney General renewed her request and asked that it be filed in the following dockets: KeySpan Energy Delivery New England, D.P.U. 07-104; Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 08-8; and NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 08-10.

delay the Department's review of its pending energy efficiency dockets (*id.*, at 1).<sup>2</sup> On June 20, 2008, DOER also requested that the technical conference not delay the Department's investigation of any open energy efficiency dockets (DOER Supplemental Comments at 1-2). On July 2, 2008, NSTAR Electric Company filed comments with the Department stating that it was willing to participate with other interested stakeholders in a technical conference on the 2007 Report (NSTAR Comments at 1). NSTAR also stated that the technical conference should be conducted in a generic manner and not delay the Department's review of pending energy efficiency dockets (*id.*).

## II. TECHNICAL SESSION

To provide interested parties with an opportunity to better understand the 2007 Report, the Department will hold an informal technical conference at the Department's offices, One South Station - 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008**. One or more of the study's authors will be made available to discuss the 2007 Report and answer questions about the study's methods, assumptions, and conclusions.

The allowance of the Attorney General's request to hold a technical conference will not delay the conduct of any energy efficiency proceeding before the Department. See 220 C.M.R. §1.04(5)(b). Additionally, consistent with typical Department practice and in order to facilitate a free flow of discussion, a stenographic record of the technical conference will not be made.

## III. PARTICIPATION

On or before the close of business on **July 10, 2008**, the Attorney General must submit to the Department a detailed list of topics and questions she wishes to have addressed at the technical conference. In addition, all persons planning to attend the technical conference should notify Benjamin Spruill, Hearing Officer, by email on or before the close of business on **July 15, 2008** at [benjamin.spruill@state.ma.us](mailto:benjamin.spruill@state.ma.us).

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<sup>2</sup> On June 20, 2008, after the Attorney General renewed her request in D.P.U 07-104, D.P.U. 08-8, and D.P.U. 08-10, National Grid reiterated its concern that the technical session should not delay a Department Order in its open energy efficiency dockets (National Grid Supplemental Comments at 1).